AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

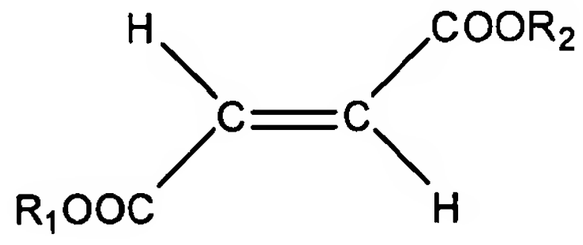
1-26. Cancelled

27. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment ~~or prevention~~ of at least one of cardiac insufficiency, myocardial infarct and[[/or]] angina pectoris, ~~which method comprises~~ comprising administering to a patient at least one fumaric acid derivative selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ dialkyl fumarates, monoalkyl hydrogen fumarates, fumaric acid monoalkyl ester salts, fumaric acid monoamides, monoamido fumaric acid salts, fumaric acid diamides, monoalkyl monoamido fumarates, carbocyclic oligomers of these compounds, and oxacarbocyclic oligomers of these compounds~~, and mixtures of the foregoing~~.

28. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27, comprising administering [[said]] the at least one fumaric acid derivative to treat ~~or prevent~~ left ventricular insufficiency.

29-32. (Canceled).

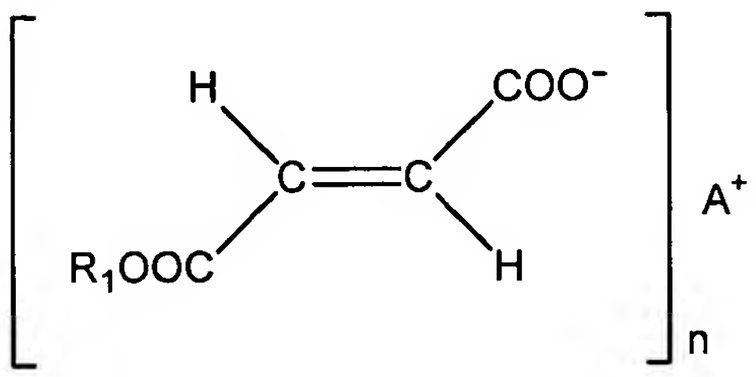
33. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 27, 29 or 31~~ claim 27, wherein the at least one fumaric acid derivative is ~~selected from one or more~~ a fumaric acid dialkyl ester[[s]] of the formula (I)



wherein R_1 and R_2 which may be the same or different independently represent a linear, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated C_{1-24} alkyl radical or

a C_{5-20} aryl radical and wherein said radicals may optionally be substituted with halogen (F, Cl, Br, I), hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, nitro or cyano.

34. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 27, 29 or 31~~ claim 27, wherein the at least one fumaric acid derivative is ~~selected from one or more~~ a fumaric acid monoalkyl ester[[s]] of the formula (II)



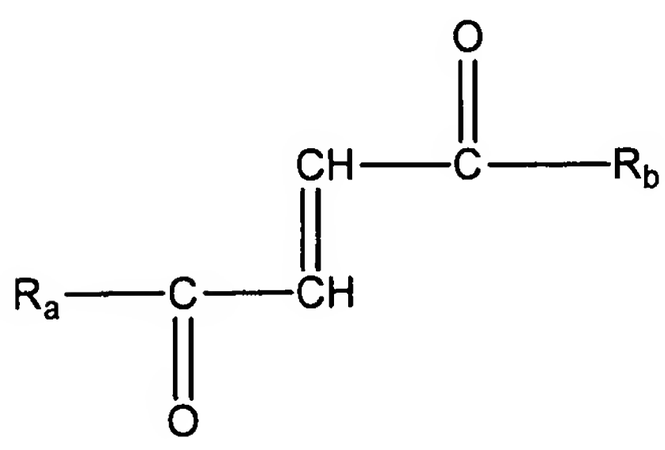
wherein

- R_1 represents a linear, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated C_{1-24} alkyl radical or a C_{5-20} aryl radical;
- A represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal cation or a physiologically acceptable transition metal cation, preferably selected from Li^+, Na^+, K^+, Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+} Zn^{2+}, Fe^{2+}, and Mn^{2+} and
- n equals 1 or 2 and corresponds to the valence of A.

35. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 27, 29 or 31~~ claim 27, wherein the at least one fumaric acid derivative is ~~selected from~~ at least one compound ~~or more~~ selected from compounds of [[the]] formulae (I) and compounds of formulae (II) ~~and mixtures thereof~~.

36. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 35, wherein the at least one fumaric acid derivative is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ fumaric acid dimethyl ester, fumaric acid diethyl ester, fumaric acid methyl ethyl ester, methyl hydrogen fumarate, ethyl hydrogen fumarate, calcium methyl fumarate, calcium ethyl fumarate, magnesium methyl fumarate, magnesium ethyl fumarate, zinc methyl fumarate, zinc ethyl fumarate, iron methyl fumarate, and iron ethyl fumarate ~~and mixtures thereof~~.

37. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 27, 29 or 31~~ claim 27, wherein the at least one fumaric acid derivative is ~~selected from one or more~~ a fumaric acid amide[[s]] of the general formula III



(III)

wherein

R_a represents OR_3 or a D- or L-amino acid radical -NH-CHR_4-COOH bonded via an amide bond, wherein R_3 is hydrogen, a straight-chain or branched, optionally substituted C_{1-24} alkyl radical, a phenyl radical or a C_{6-10} aralkyl radical and R_4 is a side chain of a natural or synthetic amino acid; and

R_b represents a D- or L-amino acid radical -NH-CHR_5-COOH bonded via an amide bond, wherein R_5 is a side chain of a natural or synthetic amino acid which may be the same as or different from R_4 or a peptide radical with 2 to 100 amino acids bonded via an amide bond, which amino acids may be the same or different.

38. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein the side chain of a natural or synthetic amino acid is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ the side chains of Ala, Val, Leu, Ile, Trp, Phe, Met, Tyr, Thr, Cys, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg, His, Citrulline, Hcy, Hse, Hyp, Hyl, Orn, Sar, and Me-Gly.

39. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein the side chain of a natural or synthetic amino acid is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ the side chains of Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Leu, and Me Gly.

40. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein R_a is the radical $-OR_3$ and R_b is an L-amino acid radical $-NH-CHR_5-COOH$ or a peptide radical, wherein R_5 ~~being as defined in claim 37~~ is a side chain of a natural or synthetic amino acid which may be the same as or different from R_4 or a peptide radical with 2 to 100 amino acids bonded via an amide bond, which amino acids may be the same or different, wherein R_4 is a side chain of a natural or synthetic amino acid.

41. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 27, 29 or 31~~ claim 27, wherein the at least one fumaric acid derivative is a carbocyclic oligomer consisting of 2 to 10 fumaric acid moieties as repetitive moieties, wherein the fumaric acid moieties are derived from monomers selected from the group consisting of fumaric acid, dialkyl fumarates, monoalkyl hydrogen fumarates, fumaric acid monoamides, fumaric acid diamides, monoalkyl monoamido fumarates and salts ~~and mixtures~~ thereof.

42. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 27, ~~28, 29, 30, 31, or 32~~ wherein the alkyl radicals having 1 to 24 carbon atoms are selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, pentyl, cyclopentyl, 2-ethyl hexyl, hexyl, cyclohexyl, heptyl, cycloheptyl, octyl, vinyl, allyl, 2-hydroxy ethyl, 2 or 3 hydroxy propyl, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl, 2-methoxy ethyl, methoxy methyl, 2- methoxy propyl, 3-methoxy propyl and 2,3-dimethoxy propyl.

43. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 42, wherein [[said]] the alkyl radicals are selected from [[are]] methyl [[or]] and ethyl.

44. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 27, ~~28, 29, 30, 31, or 32~~ wherein the drug is administered in a form suitable for oral, rectal, transdermal, dermal, ophthalmological, nasal, pulmonary or parenteral application.

45. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 44, wherein the drug is provided in the form of tablets, coated tablets, capsules, granulate, solutions for drinking, liposomes, nano particles, nano-capsules, micro-capsules, micro-tablets, pellets or powders and in the form of granules filled in capsules or sachets, micro-tablets filled in capsules or sachets, pellets filled in capsules or sachets, nano-particles filled in capsules or sachets or powder filled in capsules or sachets.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein the drug is present in the form of nano particles, pellets or micro-tablets which may optionally be filled in sachets or capsules.

47. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 45, wherein the solid oral dosage forms are provided with an enteric coating.

48. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 46, wherein the solid oral dosage forms are provided with an enteric coating.

49. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 27, ~~28, 29, 30, 31, or 32~~ wherein the ~~drug contains an~~ amount of the at lease one fumaric acid derivative[[(s)]] administered ~~corresponding~~ corresponds to 1 to 500 mg of fumaric acid.

50-64. (Canceled).